



# Brownfields Showcase Community Seattle/King County, WA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

*Brownfields are abandoned, idled or underused industrial and commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived contamination. In May 1997, Vice President Gore announced a Brownfields National Partnership to bring together the resources of more than 15 federal agencies to address local cleanup and reuse issues in a more coordinated manner. This multi-agency partnership has pledged support to 16 "Brownfields Showcase Communities"—models demonstrating the benefits of collaborative activity on brownfields. The designated Brownfields Showcase Communities are distributed across the country and vary by size, resources, and community type. A wide range of support will be leveraged, depending on the particular needs of each Showcase Community.*

## BACKGROUND

The Brownfields National Partnership has selected the City of Seattle and surrounding King County as a Brownfields Showcase Community. Seattle and King County created the Duwamish Coalition, a multi-jurisdictional, public/private partnership, to address brownfields cleanup and redevelopment in the Duwamish industrial corridor. This corridor is the most highly concentrated industrial area in the State of Washington. It encompasses more than 8,500 acres, 65% of which are in the City of Seattle, and runs through the center of Seattle's federal Enterprise Community (EC) and state Community Empowerment Zone. The corridor contains 2,000 businesses which provide nearly 87,000 jobs and which produce an annual payroll of approximately \$2.5 billion. Of the nearly 12,000 residents living in the corridor, 30% are minorities and 19% live below the poverty level. King County and the City of Seattle's overall strategy for brownfields redevelopment is to implement

a range of systemic solutions which address regulatory and other institutional barriers to cleanup and redevelopment. The aim is to stimulate private investment by increasing the redevelopment potential of contaminated, vacant or under utilized industrial

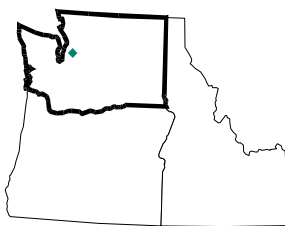
land. The Duwamish Coalition was created to implement this strategy. The coalition's Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from federal, state and local agencies, private companies, financial institutions, community and business organizations, labor unions, educational

institutions, and tribal and state governments. The coalition also involves affected communities to ensure comprehensive solutions to brownfields issues are developed.

## CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Through the Duwamish Coalition, King County and Seattle have made significant strides in addressing brownfields issues in the region. Highlights of the coalition's brownfields redevelopment program include:

### Community Profile



Seattle/King County,

Seattle is focusing on solutions which address barriers to the cleanup and redevelopment of the 8,500-acre Duwamish industrial corridor, which contains more than 200 contaminated properties. The city, King County, and other partners are implementing a broad range of innovative projects to overcome redevelopment hurdles.

- Leveraging \$1,925,652 in public and private investment in the coalition's projects, including \$959,000 in direct funding and \$966,652 in in-kind resources;
- Involving more than 250 community members in the coalition's five working subcommittees;
- Creating several projects, programs and reports which are currently being implemented to address community, environmental, health, redevelopment and revitalization problems in the corridor. These projects include:
  - The Duwamish Brownfields/Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) Project, an EPA Brownfields Pilot project which has leveraged \$720,000 in public and private funding;
  - The Environmental Extension Service (EES) project, which has leveraged \$111,000 in public and private funding; and
  - The Duwamish Groundwater Pathways Project, which has leveraged \$128,000 in public and private funding;
  - Implementing a demonstration project process that provided technical and financial assistance from local governments to public and private entities for various cleanup and redevelopment projects, all of which were projected to create or retain industrial jobs;
- Launching the Seattle and King County Jobs Initiatives to improve links between disadvantaged residents and jobs in the corridor, and creating a Workforce Brokerage with private sector employers to implement the initiatives; and

- Participating in an effort by the National Association of City and County Health Officials to develop a national protocol for conducting community environmental health assessments.

## SHOWCASE COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

King County and Seattle plan to use the Showcase Communities project to further the efforts undertaken by the Duwamish Coalition. Current or proposed brownfields projects within the Duwamish area include: the TPH project; an environmental extension service; a Duwamish area-wide consent decree and agreed order; a model prospective purchaser agreement; the Duwamish groundwater pathways project; and an outreach/communications program.

King County and Seattle's brownfields redevelopment activities serve as a national example. The unique partnerships and processes of the Duwamish Coalition have resulted in the development of a comprehensive strategy to address brownfields issues at a regional level, with the extended involvement of many types of stakeholders.

### Contacts

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For more information on the Brownfields Showcase Communities,  
visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/showcase.htm>